

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and enter the following new claims 18-37:

18. A method to detect early renal disease in a felid or canid, said method comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a sample from said felid or canid;
 - (b) contacting the sample with an albumin-binding compound;
 - (c) detecting the complex formed by the albumin-binding compound and albumin; and
 - (d) determining the amount of albumin present in the sample from the amount of complex detected,

wherein an amount of albumin in a range of from about 10 μ g/ml to about 300 μ g/ml in the sample, when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010, is indicative of early renal disease.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said albumin binding compound has a greater avidity for albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said albumin-binding compound is a monoclonal antibody that has a greater avidity for albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of said albumin by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437, H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibody binds the same epitope of albumin recognized by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using an assay that detects albumin in a range from about 10 µg/ml to about 50 µg/ml when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein the amount of albumin in said sample is determined using a single step assay.

26. A method to identify a felid or canid at risk for developing late-stage renal disease, said method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a sample from said felid or canid;
- (b) contacting the sample with an albumin-binding compound that has a greater avidity for feline or canid albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample;
- (c) detecting the complex formed by the albumin-binding compound and albumin; and
- (d) determining the amount of albumin present in the sample from the amount of complex detected,

wherein an amount of albumin in a range of from about 10 μ g/ml to about 300 μ g/ml in the sample, when the specific gravity of the sample is normalized to 1.010, indicates said felid or canid is at risk for developing late-stage renal disease.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said albumin binding compound has a greater avidity for albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein said albumin-binding compound is a monoclonal antibody that has a greater avidity for albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of said albumin by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

30. The invention of claim 28, wherein said antibody binds the same epitope of albumin recognized by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

31. The invention of claim 28, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

32. An isolated monoclonal antibody that selectively binds albumin from a felid or canid.

33. The isolated monoclonal antibody of claim 32, wherein said antibody has greater avidity for albumin than for other proteins or components in the sample.

34. The isolated monoclonal antibody of claim 32, wherein said antibody inhibits the binding of said albumin by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

35. The isolated monoclonal antibody of claim 32, wherein said antibody binds the same epitope of albumin recognized by an albumin-binding compound selected from the group consisting of TNB1, TNB4, TNB5, TNB6, H352, H386, H387, H388, H389, H390, H391, H393, H394, H395, H396, H397, H398, H399, H400, H401, H402, H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

36. The isolated monoclonal antibody of claim 32, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of H419, H420, H421, H422, H423, H424, H425, H426, H427, H428, H429, H430, H431, H432, H433, H434, H435, H436, H437 H438, H439, H440, H441, H442, H443, H446, H447, H448, H449, H451, H452, H453, H454, H455, H456, H457, H458, H459 and H460.

37. A kit comprising:

(a) the antibody of claim 32; and

(b) a means for detecting the amount of albumin in a sample collected from a felid or canid, wherein said means detects albumin in a range from about 10 µg/ml to about 50 µg/ml.